

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4705

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, LE, IS
SUBJECT: COORDINATION WITH THE IDF - A MUST

REF: (A) BEIRUT 1920, (B) TEL AVIV 4640

1. DURING MY 6 APRIL MEETING WITH WEIZMAN I RAISED THE PROBLEM OF THE TWELVE GENDARMES WHO HAD BEEN STOPPED BY THE ISRAELIS AT ABBASSIYAH ON APRIL 5 (REFTELS). WEIZMAN HAD HIS EXECUTIVE OFFICER GET THE REPORT FROM THE IDF CONCERNING THIS INCIDENT AND WE DISCUSSED IT AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS AT LENGTH.
2. THE IDF HAD A COMPLETE RECORD OF THIS EVENT AND, AS CHIEF OF OPERATIONS EITAN HAD TOLD DCM VIETS EARLIER IN THE DAY (REF B), THEIR ACCOUNT GENERALLY CORRESPONDED WITH THAT OF THE LEBANESE (REF A). THE MAJOR DIFFERENCE WAS THAT THE ISRAELI REPORT DID NOT INDICATE UNIFIL TROOPS WERE ACCOMPANYING THE GENDARMES. THEIR RECORDS SHOW THAT TWELVE GENDARMES IN A TRUCK ARRIVED, ACCOMPANIED
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BY A LEBANESE POLICE COLONEL IN A LAND ROVER. THE IDF CHECKPOINT REFUSED TO ALLOW THEM TO PASS. THE REASON WAS THAT NO PRIOR COORDINATION WITH THE IDF CONCERNING THE MOVE OF THE GENDARMES HAD TAKEN PLACE.

3. WEIZMAN TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS IN A TYPICALLY COLORFUL FASHION THAT ALTHOUGH HE WANTS LEBANESE AUTHORITY

IN PLACE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON JUST AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, EACH MOVE OF THE LEBANESE GENDARMES OR LEBANESE ARMY AS WELL AS THE UNIFIL FORCES MUST REPEAT MUST BE THOROUGHLY COORDINATED WITH THE IDF.

4. WE NOTE THAT ON 6 APRIL MAJ. HADDAD HAD A CONFRONTATION WITH NORWEGIAN TROOPS IN TAYYIBAH. THE IDF RECORD SHOWS THAT THE MOVE OF THE NORWEGIANS IN THAT VICINITY HAD NOT BEEN COORDINATED WITH THE IDF--THUS THE CONFRONTATION WITH HADDAD.

5. COMMENT: WEIZMAN AND THE IDF PALCE VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE ON PRIOR COORDINATION BY UNIFIL SO LONG AS THE IDF REMAINS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. THUS, IF LEBANESE TROOPS AND GENDARMES AND UNIFIL FORCES ARE TO BE SUCCESSFULLY INTRODUCED THEY MUST TALK TO THE IDF. THIS REQUIREMENT MAY APPEAR TO BE DEMEANING AND UNCOMFORTABLE FOR SIILASVUO AND FOR THE LEBANESE THEMSELVES, BUT I FEAR IT IS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY. IT WAS ALSO OBVIOUS DURING THIS MEETING THAT WEIZMAN IS VERY FRUSTRATED BY THE LACK OF DIRECT SUBSTANTIVE CONTACT WITH THE LEBANESE. HE WOULD MUCH PREFER TALKING DIRECTLY TO THE LEBANESE ABOUT THE MOVEMENT OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES INTO THE AREA AS OPPOSED TO GOING THROUGH UNIFIL OR SIILASVUO.
LEWIS

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